

**H. R. 755.**

[Report No. 52.]

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1849.

Read twice, and postponed until to-morrow.

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Mr. EDWARDS, from the Select Committee, to which the subject was referred, reported the following bill ;

**A BILL**

To prevent the patenting of medicines.

1      *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*  
2      *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*  
3      *assembled, That, from and after the passage of this act,*  
4      letters patent shall not be granted for any article or pre-  
5      paration whatever as a medicine ; and that the use, as a  
6      medicine, of any article or preparation, for which letters  
7      patent may hereafter be granted, shall not be held to be  
8      an infringement of such patent : *Provided, That no pa-*  
9      tent, granted prior to the passage of this act, shall, by  
10     reason thereof, be held to be void ; and that this act shall not  
11     be so construed as to deprive an inventor or discoverer of

12 the right to letters patent for a new and improved process  
13 for preparing or manufacturing any medicinal article,  
14 whether simple or compound: *And provided, also, That*  
15 the prohibition contained in this act, shall not apply to ma-  
16 chines, instruments, or apparatus pertaining either to sur-  
17 gery or medicine.